

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

## January 2018

### Happy New Year 2018

Welcome Back! We would like to wish everyone a very Happy New year filled with many blessings and much success.

### Testing Calendar

Parents, we have provided you with copies of the 2017-2018 Miami Dade County Public Schools Testing Calendar. A virtual calendar is available at [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) under the Calendars link.

### After School Community Classes 2017-2018

The following Community Classes are available to all students from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade.

Currently After School Community classes include: Karate, Flamenco, Guitar, Hip Hop, and Chess.

We encourage you to pass by the After School Care Office to register for these activities.

Please visit the After School Care Page on the **Ada Merritt K-8 Center Website at:** <http://adameritt.dadeschools.net> to reflect all new and existing community classes.



The Values Matter Initiative focuses on our school district's Student Code of Conduct and nine core values. These values are important to

being a model student and having a positive impact on others. We will be emphasizing and celebrating positive behavior.

Students will be participating in classroom lessons and watching videos that expand on the nine core values. The focus of the core value for January is "Pursuit of Excellence."

# Ada Merritt K-8 Center Science Fair 2017-2018

## Ada Merritt K-8 Center Science Fair 2017-2018

### TOP SUPERIORS

*The following students are the top superior recipients who will be representing Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the **Elementary Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Invention Fair.***

Marcos Colio (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Meghan McGuinn (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Demian Ugarte-Lesende (5<sup>th</sup>)  
Carla Montenegro (5<sup>th</sup>)

*The following seventh grade students are the top superior recipients who will represent Ada Merritt K-8 Center at the **64<sup>th</sup> Annual South Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair***

Adrian Colio  
Thomas Suarez  
Samantha Oyon  
Nancy Rosario-Agudel

**Date:** Saturday, February 10, 2018  
Miami Dade College, North Campus  
Science Complex  
11380 Northwest 27 Avenue  
Miami, FL 33167

# Ada Merritt K-8 Center Cross Country Team

Ada Merritt K-8 Center is offering a Cross Country Team. The commitment for the team is that your child be able to run two (2) miles in order to participate in various cross-country invitational this semester.

All invitational meets are held at Larry and Penny Thompson Park (12451 SW 184 Street Miami, FL 33137) during the school day.

Practice days and times are scheduled as follows:

<u>Days</u>	<u>Mornings</u>	<u>Afternoons</u>
Monday		3:05 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Tuesdays	7:30 a.m. - 8:05 a.m.	3:05 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Wednesdays	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	
Thursdays	7:30 a.m. - 8:05 a.m.	3:05 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Fridays		3:05 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

When reporting to practice, students must sign the daily attendance sheet before each practice.

Students will meet on the west side of the Building (MYP Walkers Pick Up Area) for all morning and afternoon practices. Parents should pick up students at this area after the afternoon practice.

# Ada Merritt K-8 Center Cross Country Team

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Cross Country season.

We thank the parents for their undivided support and the students for their ongoing commitment and dedication. A final thanks to our very own Coach Julie Weaver, for her guidance and constant encouragement.

At the Final Championship Meet our teams placed as follows:

Boys JV Team 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Girls JV Team 7<sup>th</sup> Place  
Boys Varsity Team 11<sup>th</sup> Place  
Girls Varsity Team 5<sup>th</sup> Place

Nahuel Garcia places 1<sup>st</sup> out of 123 runners in the JV race. Other runners that represented the JV team at the Championship Meet were: Ivan Valle, Jordan Bueso, Hugo Monsalve, Santiago Guillamont, Matthew Calero and Bryan Carvajal. All of the runners were outstanding this year and many if not all had a personal best time at one of the races.

The top runners that received medals throughout the various meets were: Alicia Krasner, Julia DeNight, Mariam Osman, Nabila Osman and Isabella Ferrandiz.

## A Special Recognition to all our Student Athletes:

Javier Coig  
Nicolas Pereira  
Dylan Uluc  
Alicia Krasner  
Mariana Leon-Pantin

Andrea Paipa  
Mikel Marlins  
Santiago Carbone  
Erdwin Ochoa  
Joshua Silva  
Natalia Parras  
Isabella Ferrandiz  
Andrew Greig  
Byron Carvajal  
Santiago Guillamont  
George Krasner  
Julia Denight  
Nabila Osman  
Daniela Rovira  
Carolina Chinn  
Cristina Hope-Borges  
Hugo Monsalve  
Kenneth Rojas  
Patrick Gonsoulin  
Thomas Suarez  
Nahuel Garcia  
Katerina Valle  
Shamary Contreras  
Sofia DeBenito  
Natalia DeBenito  
Emily Chea  
Marina Cookson  
Lara Uluc  
Olivia Diaz  
Nina Paret  
Glenis Mendoza  
Christopher Teixeira  
Keanu Lopes  
Matthew Calero  
Ivan Valle  
Jordan Bueso  
Moises Vega  
Declan Wager  
Gian Torres  
Daniela Campos  
Mara Rodriguez  
Sofia Benedetti  
Roiler Acosta  
Kenneth Rojas  
Patrick Gonsoulin  
Thomas Suarez

All practices will be held at the park across the street from school (Riverside Park).

Please make sure your child wears some type of running/sneaker shoes - no street shoes. Water bottle would be a good idea along with a light weight shirt to practice in.

Uniform information will be forthcoming. The last Final Championship Meet will take place on Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

## Accelerated Reader (AR)

We are very excited to announce that our school has started the Individual Accelerated Reading Challenge for Grades 1-8.

At the conclusion of the first grading period we had 129 students meeting their grade level gold goals between 1st grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The PTA will be providing incentives for those students meeting their goals.

## Reminders about Attendance

Parents,  
Attendance continues to be a major component of your child's success in school. We need your support to ensure that students are in school on time every day.

Students in kindergarten and first grade should be seated in class by 8:20 a.m. Second through eighth grade students should be seated in class by 8:35 a.m.

Students will not be dismissed 30 minutes before dismissal times.

I thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

## National Junior Honor Society 2017-2018 Members

We would like to honor the Newly Inducted Seventh Grade Students

Estela Alonso	Nabila Osman
Nina Bouche	Natalia Parras
Matthew Calero	Sabrina Wisniacki
Ashlee Camacho	
Daniela Castiblanco	
Jennifer Chistik	
Adrian Colio	
Alfonso Del Castillo	
Nora Gomez-Langseth	
Stephanie He	
Silvana Levito	
Daniel Luca	
Glenis Mendoza	
Micaela Montero	

We would like to honor the Newly Inducted Eighth Grade Students

Deeanne Montero
Maria Jose Sanchez
Katerina Valle
Mauro Vallejo
Natalie Verdesoto

## EESAC

We would like to introduce Ms. Nevis Madrigal, who has filled the position as our newly voted parent representative member on November 13, 2017 into the Educational Excellence School Advisory Council (EESAC). Congratulations Ms. Madrigal and welcome!

## Student Council

Congratulations to the new 2017-2018 Student Council Members:  
David Kuper (President)  
Whitney Marks (Vice President)  
Natalia Parras (Historian)  
William Pacheco (Secretary)

## ART Matters



Great News!

Five of our students were selected as district finalists in the Painting from the Heart art exhibit organized by the Miami-Dade Coalition for Community Education and M-DCPS.

Four students were awarded Honorable Mentions and one of the students, Mariana Lugo, 5th Grade, was awarded 2nd Place in the 2nd Category, for her artwork Optical Illusions. The rest of the students are Talia Lazar (8th), Lucas Barros (6th), Amanda De Andrade (3rd) and Amanda Henry (2nd).

Five of our students, 4th graders Sarah Fiallega, Dariela Cardenas, Sophia Tanure, Rebecca Narazzaqui and Mya Carranza, have been selected as district-finalists for their artwork Watercolor Monsters into The 32nd Annual Impressions in Watercolor.

Two of our 5th grade students have been selected as district-finalists for the Small Works art exhibition organized by M-DCPS and the Miami International University of Art & Design.

The students are:  
Sophia Urena and Amy Pena.  
Congratulations to all our artists.

## Applicant Tour Information 2017-2018

The last school tours begin at 9: 00 a.m.  
January 09, 2018

## Magnet Application Process

The Magnet application process has opened. Interested candidates need to complete an application online and submit it to Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) before the January 15, 2018 deadline.

## School of Choice and Parental Options website

Siblings must also apply to the Magnet Program and note "Sibling" on the form in order to be given priority.

Parents will be informed of their child's application status on March 15, 2018. Parents of accepted students will respond to invitations and register their child between March 15 and March 30, 2018.

When registering, bring your Schools of Choice Acceptance Letter and a completed Registration Packet.

## Code of Student Conduct

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to providing a safe teaching and learning environment for students, staff, and members of the community. On January 16, 2008, the School Board approved a newly revised Code of Student Conduct (COSC). The revised COSC identifies, recognizes, and rewards model student behavior within a framework of clearly established and enforceable rules and policies. It advocates a holistic approach to promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment and requires active participation from students, parents/guardians, and school staff. Students and parents/guardians can access the English and Haitian/Creole versions of the document on the M-DCPS Website located at:  
<http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/90/index.htm> or you may request a copy

from your child's school. The Spanish version of this document will be forthcoming.

The school district believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parents/legal guardians, staff, and community members creating an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for district and community property on the part of students, staff, and community members. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers will demonstrate appropriate behavior; treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying or harassment (M-DCPS Code of Student Conduct).

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has an Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy. Please speak to your child about reporting any bullying or harassment to a school official. All allegations will be investigated.

Please ensure you review the Code of Student Conduct with your child.

## Parent and Student Handbook

The Parent and Student Handbook is available on the Ada Merritt K-8 Center website. The Parent and Student Handbook outlines district and school policies on attendance, conduct, grading, arrival/dismissal, lunch, peanut/nut free practice and many more important topics.

We encourage you to take the time to review the Parent and Student Handbook with your child.

All students should return the Parent and Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form to their teacher.

## FREE Breakfast!



Breakfast is free for all students. Please encourage your child to come by the Cafeteria in the morning and to take advantage of the free breakfast provided for every student.

Breakfast is served until 7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. School breakfast improves student behavior and learning environments.

- Schools that provide breakfast in the classroom to all students show decreases in tardiness and suspensions as well as improved student behavior and attentiveness.
- Providing students with breakfast in the classroom setting is associated with lower tardy rates and fewer disciplinary office referrals.
- School breakfast programs can lower absence and tardiness rates and improve standardized achievement test scores.

## Parent Volunteers/Visitors

Effective immediately, parents, students, employees and community members who wish to volunteer at your school should register on-line through the M-DCPS portal(s).

Parents, please remember to sign-in if you plan to be in school after 8:35 a.m. A Volunteer / Visitor's Badge can be obtained from the Main Office. Please use the same procedure when visiting the park while physical education classes are in session. Please assist us in keeping our students safe.

## STUDENT ABSENCES

Please be reminded that if your child is absent from school; he/she must bring a written note, within three school days, explaining the absence(s) in order to be excused. The following are considered excused absences:

- a. student illness
- b. medical appointment
- c. death in family
- d. observance of a religious holiday or service when mandated for all members of a faith that such a holiday or service be observed
- e. school-sponsored event or activity previously approved
- f. other individual student absences approved by the principal

Parents, we appreciate the great effort being made thus far to have students in school on time. Please continue supporting us as we encourage students to be on time to school every day.

If you do not provide a written note explaining the absence(s) it will be considered unexcused.

Please review the attached letter regarding the Attendance Plan. Please note that parents will automatically receive a Connect Ed message once the student has three absences.

## Media Center Etiquette

Remember that there is no eating or drinking in the Media Center. We need to keep the computers clean and in working condition. It is important that we follow the Media Center rules so that the Media Center can be maintained in the best condition for our students. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## Media Center Hours

Please be informed that the Media Center will be available to parents from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. daily and 3:10 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. daily; except for Wednesdays, 1:55 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

The Media Center hours were revised to make the Media Center more available to students and teachers during school hours.

## "Keep It Neat!" Campaign

We thank you for your cooperation.

*Keep it neat,  
Stay in your seat!*

*Don't eat or touch,  
Your neighbor's lunch!*

*Check the table and floor,  
Before you walk out the door.*

*It's the cool scene,  
To keep our school clean!*

Parents, to promote balanced, caring, cooperative, and respectful citizenship, we have initiated the "Keep it Neat!" Campaign. During breakfast and lunch the students are encouraged to make sure they don't drop wrappers, utensils, napkins or other items on the cafeteria floor. In addition, students are encouraged to talk with friends, read or just enjoy a quiet meal. Students may not walk around the cafeteria. Instead, they are to wait for their teacher during lunchtime to arrive before they throw their tray and/or other items away.

## Peanut/Nut Free School



Let's be mindful that Ada Merritt K-8 Center is peanut/nut free school. Please refrain from sending to school any peanut or nut containing products. In order to avoid accidental contact I am urging all parents to discourage their children from sharing foods, utensils, and containers.

## Traffic Safety



Please assist us in respecting all crosswalks and speed limits around our school. Miami-Dade County ranks #1 in the State of Florida and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Our students will participate in the WalkSafe Program in our continued efforts to reduce the number of pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Parents, please keep in mind that the "walkers" dismissal area is for parents who stand and wait for their child's class to be dismissed. The teacher acknowledges the parent(s) and the child then walks to where you are.

Please note that if you want to have your child come to your car you must use the **circular driveway** located at the opposite side of the school (4<sup>th</sup> Street). We need your support and cooperation to ensure the safety of our students during arrival and dismissal.

Additionally, please use caution when dropping off and picking up your child. For safety and convenience, we are recommending that you please use the circular driveway area.





## Morning Drop-off

This is a reminder that students whose homeroom classroom is in Building One should wait for their teacher to pick them up at 8:20 a.m. Students whose homeroom class is located in Building Two should wait for their teachers sitting outside their assigned classroom. Security monitors will be supervising the students. Parents are not allowed in classrooms during the morning drop-off. Please understand that school must begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and we need your support in maximizing instructional time. Accordingly, please ensure your child is in his or her classroom by 8:30 a.m.

## Circular Drive Pick-Up

Parents who chose to utilize the Circular Drive Pick-Up must remain in their cars. School personnel will dismiss students to your car. Students will not be dismissed to parents who "walk-up" to the Circular Driveway.

Parents who wish to "walk-up" may do so at the "Walkers" Dismissal Area located at the North Side of the school on Southwest Third Street.

In order to continue to have a safe and smooth daily dismissal, it is important that all parents support the school guidelines on Dismissal.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Student of the Month

The purpose of the Student of the Month Ceremony is to recognize students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grades, who have demonstrated attributes from the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile, for example: being an inquirer, knowledgeable, a thinker, a communicator, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taker, balanced, and/or reflective. This includes showing the following attitudes: appreciation, confidence, commitment, cooperation, curiosity, creativity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect and tolerance.

The format of the Student of the Month ceremony has changed. The ceremonies will still take place each month; however, they will take place in the afternoon at 1:15 p.m. in the cafeteria. Students will receive a t-shirt, a pencil, a certificate and will make their own special ice-cream creations.

**The December and January Student of the Month Celebrations will take place on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.**